

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20, and add new claims 21-40. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of such new claims. The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listing of claims in this application.

1. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (New) An electronic equipment rack for receiving a plurality of functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the electronic equipment rack comprising:

a chassis, comprising:

a housing;

a backplane attached to the housing; and

a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing;

a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the chassis; and

a plurality of card guides substantially disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides being engaged with the printed circuit board assembly, the backplane and the cover.

22. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the card guides comprises:

a first engagement element that engages the printed circuit board assembly;

a second engagement element that engages the backplane; and

a third engagement element that engages the cover.

23. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 22, wherein the cover includes a self-clinching tie mount arranged to engage the third engagement element.

24. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein adjacent card guides are disposed opposite each other at a distance generally corresponding to a width of a functional module card.

25. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein each card guide is releasably engaged with the printed circuit board assembly, the backplane and the cover.

26. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define a plurality of card storage levels.

27. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides comprises first and second end card guides and a middle card guide, the first and second card guides being positioned on either side of the middle card guide such that:

a distance between the middle card guide and the first end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card; and

a distance between the middle card guide and the second end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card.

28. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

29. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two stacked card storage slots.

30. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 33, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define:

at least two stacked card storage slots; and

at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

31. (New) A fastenerless connection system, comprising:
a plurality of engagement elements, where:
a first engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a printed circuit board assembly;
a second engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a backplane of an electronic equipment chassis; and
a third engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a cover of an electronic equipment chassis; and
corresponding structure configured to engage the plurality of engagement elements, the corresponding structure comprising a portion of one or more card guides.
32. (New) The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 31, wherein a portion of the corresponding structure is configured to releasably engage an engagement element.
33. (New) The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 31, wherein a portion of the corresponding structure is configured to permanently engage an engagement element.

34. (New) An electronic equipment rack configured to receive a plurality of functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the electronic equipment rack comprising:

a chassis, comprising:

a housing;

a backplane attached to the housing; and

a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing;

a plurality of self-clinching tie mounts attached to the cover;

a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the interior of the electronic equipment chassis; and

a plurality of card guides disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides engaged with a corresponding self-clinching tie mount.

35. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein adjacent card guides are disposed opposite each other at a distance generally corresponding to a width of a functional module card.

36. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define a plurality of card storage levels.

37. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides comprises first and second end card guides and a middle card guide, the first and second card guides being positioned on either side of the middle card guide such that:

a distance between the middle card guide and the first end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card; and

a distance between the middle card guide and the second end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card.

38. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

39. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two stacked card storage slots.

40. (New) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define:

at least two stacked card storage slots; and
at least two side-by-side card storage slots.